February 3, 1971

Dear Harold,

Your mailing of 1/29 received yesterday.

You asked about a note dated 1/11/69 with my name on it, re"Oswald's application", etc. It means nothing to me, so you can safely forget it.

I am getting and saving the T-P stories on the current N.O. hearings. The simple mechanics of clipping and pasting onto letter-size pages would be time-consuming, but I can do it for you if necessary. Please let me know in a couple of weeks if you have not found an alternate source. I find it a bit irritating that either you or I should have to worry about such things. Isn't Bud's Committee good for anything?

You referred to a memo of "last week" concerning LHO and the NO Public Library, but you did not send me the original memo.

Concerning the reports that I have pulled an Epstein: I appreciate your efforts to keep me informed. I recall speaking to only four critics when I was East - you, Bud, Sylvia, and Dick Sprague. Sylvia and I had a short but good discussion of our general views. She later reported to me that she had heard of my support of the Commission, which I denied; I thought we got this straightened out. I think the main difference between Sylvia and me is that I suspect Oswald was involved in the plot, quite possibly knowingly - although I grant that a good lawyer could have probably gotten him off. I am by no means as "pro-Oswald" as Sylvia, but I don't think my views are near Epstein's either. However, Dick and I disagreed quite strongly. As I recall, he said very early in our conversation that he wasn't very interested in the details of the workings of the Commission, etc., since he already knew who killed JFK. (Hicks, I believe!) He may have seen my rejection of his absolutely crazy and illogical theories as an endorsement of the Commission. If he did, too bad for him. There are those for whom the first requirement of being a legitimate critic as rejecting all the Commission's conclusions - except (perhaps) that Ruby shot Oswald. You may want to suggest to the more reasonable people who are wondering about my views that because of my rather extensive understanding of the way the Commission worked I am strongly inclined to reject all its conclusions, but sometimes the facts support them. I don't really see why my views of the Commission's conclusions should interest anyone, but you could suggest that anyone who is considering corresponding with me on substantive matters should assume that all the rumors about my views are untrue, act accordingly, and see what happens. (Incidentally, there may be those who consider opposition to Garrison a pro-Commission stand. I am certainly down on Garrison, as you know.)

I don't know exactly why Jim S. left SF, but I think one reason was to help out his parents in Portland. He was also going to look for a job and hopefully get back in the buff business when he settles down. As for his interest, you should assume that he is interested in just about everything I am. As you know, he has in the past been very good on names, lists, phone numbers, and CD research. I don't know what his financial situation is but if I were Bud I would jump at the chance to subsidize his research,

You asked about the Odio stuff (enclosures to CE 3146) that the JD was going to give the Archives for me. I have not followed this up; you may if you wish. The main point was not to get the material but to force the JD to complete a missing file in the Archives. Actually, for that it would be better for you to ask than me.

When I get done with the preparations described in my letter of 1/20, the 800 or so pages from the Archives will be available to you for my copying cost, which, as you know, is 3¢ per page or a bit less. I have an inventory of these pages, with no or little descriptive material; I have located a couple of copies for "security." If you are really that impatient I can send you a copy of this list, but if you can hold off a month or so that should be enough time for me to finish the bare minimum of the preparatory work.

I am enclosing the list of the 845 pages I copied from Bud's file. There are important things, and I think it would be worth your time to go through Bud's files with this list in hand. As I said when I returned the originals to Bud, you can order copies from me; use a marked-up copy of this list. (3¢/page, of course.)

Sincerely, Paul

Mailed 2/7